Fig. 2 shows details of the audio system within a multi-media workstation 7 according to Fig. 1. Workstation 7 comprises an input interface 71 which couples workstation 7 with network 1. Input interface 71 is coupled with a digital signal processor (DSP) 72 which processes the packetized incoming data stream into a stereo audio signal and processes any audio signal from microphone 13 received through an A/D converter in audio card 73 into a packetized data stream which can be transferred over network 1. A program control unit 74, such as the central processing unit, receives data from a keyboard or mouse or any other input device and feeds a respective control signal to DSP 72. DSP 72 generates a left and a right audio signal which is fed to an audio card 73. Audio card 73 comprises D/A and A/D converter and respective amplifier stages to drive loudspeaker 8 and/or headset 10. The audio card may also have additional input/outputs 14, for example, for a second set of loudspeakers and/or additional microphones.

In the embodiment shown in Fig. 2, DSP 72 manages incoming and outgoing data streams under the control of program control unit 74. In this embodiment only one speaker 8 is used which is coupled to either the right or left output of audio card 73. The other output of audio card 73 is connected to headset 10. In case of an incoming call DSP 72 generates a ringing signal which is fed to the audio channel coupled with loudspeaker 8. In another embodiment the ringing signal can be applied to both loudspeaker 8 and headset 10 with appropriate volume settings for each of the outputs. On the screen of workstation 7 an Alert-Box will be generated as for example shown in Fig. 5. Such an Alert-Box indicates in addition to the ringing signal that an incoming call is waiting to be picked up. The user can, for example in a window-based graphical user interface, move an arrow 104 to select one of three choices. The selection is done by clicking on a respective button or icon 101, 102, or 103. Clicking on button 101 selects a speaker phone function. In this mode all incoming audio data are processed by DSP 72 into a single digital audio signal which will be converted into an analog audio signal by means of audio card 73. This single analog signal is then fed to speaker 8. Clicking on button 102 selects the headset mode. In this mode DSP 72